



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

New River Improvement Project Technical Advisory Committee

TEAM CHARTER

Team Name:

New River Improvement Project, Technical Advisory Committee

Sponsor:

Secretary of Environmental Protection, California Environmental Protection Agency

Technical Advisory Committee:

The Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of impacted cities and counties, relevant local, regional and state agencies and departments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders dedicated to achieving the goals of AB 1079 and restoring the New River.

Members are:

- Calexico Community Representative, Ema Rosa Silva
- Calexico New River Committee, Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director
- California Department of Fish and Game, Bermuda Dunes Office Anna Milloy, Environmental Scientist
- California Department of Public Health, Marilyn Underwood, Toxicologist
- California Environmental Protection Agency, Ricardo Martinez, Deputy Secretary for Border Affairs (Designee Daniel Garza)
- CalTrans, District 6, Frank Gonzalez, P.E.
- Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River – Brawley, Leon Lesicka, Executive Director (Alternate Marie Barrett)
- City of Calexico, Luis Estrada, Utility Services Director (Alternate Juan Carlos Maturino))
- Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, Jose L. Angel, Assistant Executive Officer
- Comite Civico del Valle, Inc., Luis Olmedo, Executive Director
- County of Imperial, Ralph Cordova Jr., County Executive Officer (designee Andy Horne, Deputy County Executive Officer)
- Imperial County Farm Bureau, Linsey Dale, Executive Director
- Imperial Irrigation District, Brian Brady, General Manager (Designee Steve Charlton)
- International Boundary and Water Commission, El Paso, Lisa Santana

- Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez, Erika Contreras, Capitol Director (Designee Antonio Ortega)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Eduardo Demesa, Chief, Plan Formulation Branch
- U.S. General Services Administration, Jonathan Ballard, Portfolio Manager

Steering Committee:

To advise the Technical Advisory Committee and facilitate efficient and effective use of time and resources in implementing the New River Improvement Project, a Steering Committee will be formed. The Steering Committee consists of representatives of the agencies within the TAC that approve funding:

- Luis Estrada, Utility Services Director, City of Calexico
- Ricardo Martinez, Deputy Secretary for Border Affairs, California Environmental Protection Agency (Chair) (Designee Daniel Garza)
- Jose L. Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Work Groups:

The members of the Technical Advisory Committee will be organized into three workgroups, each with a chair and a vice-chair. The work groups and their missions are as follows:

- **Impairments and Remediation Work Group. Mission:** To quantify current and projected New River water quality impairments and their threat to public health and to prioritize the actions necessary to protect public health and meet New River water quality objectives and other environmental goals, such as improving the quality of water flows into the Salton Sea.
 - Jose Angel, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, Chair
 - Ed DeMesa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

- Luis Estrada, City of Calexico
- Linsey Dale, Imperial County Farm Bureau
- Luis Olmedo, Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.
- Ema Silva, Calexico Citizen Representative
- Miguel Figueroa, Calexico New River Committee
- Leon Lesicka, Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River
- Steve Charlton, Imperial Irrigation District
- The IBWC representative will be asked

Funding and Background Work Group. Mission: To identify potential funds for the implementation of the project, to identify the lead agencies that would be responsible for environmental review of activities related to the cleanup and restoration of the New River, and to provide background and legal information about the New River.

- Ricardo Martinez, Chair, (designee Dan Garza)
Andy Horne, County of Imperial, (Vice Chair)

Committee members:

- Jon Ballard, U.S. General Services Administration
 - Luis Estrada, City of Calexico
 - Ed DeMesa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Linsey Dale, Imperial County Farm Bureau
 - Erika Contreras, Office of Assemblymember Perez
 - Bob Hamm, County of Imperial Department of Public Health
 - Non-TAC members to be nominated
 - Representatives of all federal agencies with regulatory, planning or funding roles
- **New River Visioning Work Group. Mission:** To imagine and develop a vision for the New River that is consistent with water quality objectives and flood control features of the New River.
 - Miguel Figueroa, Calexico New River Committee, Chair
 - Frank Gonzalez, CalTrans, Vice-Chair

Committee Members:

- Jon Ballard, U.S. General Services Administration
- Ema Silva, Calexico Citizen Representative
- Armando Villa, City of Calexico
- Ed DeMesa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Luis Olmedo, Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.
- Non-TAC members nominated

1. Team Need/Background:

The New River Improvement Project was created by AB 1079 to “study, monitor, remediate and enhance the New River water quality in the County of Imperial to protect human health, and develop a river parkway suitable for public use and enjoyment.” AB 1079 requires the California Mexico Border Relations Council to develop a plan to guide implementation of the New River Improvement Project. This plan must contain the following elements:

- Quantification of current and projected New River water quality impairments and their threat to public health.
- Prioritization of the actions necessary to protect public health and to meet New River water quality objectives and other environmental goals, such as improving the quality of water flows into the Salton Sea.
- Identification of potential funds for the implementation of the project, and potential lead agencies that would be responsible for environmental review of activities related to the cleanup and restoration of the New River.

- Identification of the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies with a role in implementing and achieving the New River Project.

2. Technical Advisory Committee Mission Statement:

To bring together the government administrative, regulatory, and funding agencies in tandem with advice from the scientific community, the environmental community, and affected stakeholders to imagine the future of the New River and create a plan which will help to determine and implement the actions needed to remediate water quality issues in the New River which includes a river parkway.

3. Objectives: *At the end of this collaborative effort we will have:*

- Provided guidance, coordination and administrative support for the development of the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan.
- Identified the agencies that need to be involved in the restoration of the New River.
- Identified the impairments to the New River and gaps in information and data that must be filled to restore the river.
- Identified options to remediate impairments to the environment and human health and a high level cost estimate to implement those options
- Imagined the options for creating a vision for the New River.
- Merged the vision for the New River with the options for remediation and prioritized those options in the order they must be achieved to be successful.
- Identified the funding, lead agencies, and necessary criteria and contacts to achieve the funding necessary to implement the improvements.
- Completed the Strategic Plan.
- Developed suggestions for regulations and legislation that might be needed to implement the Strategic Plan.
- Identified within the Strategic Plan the next steps.

4. Measures: *These objectives will be realized when:*

- The New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan is completed.
- The appropriate next steps have been put in place to move the New River Improvement Project forward.

5. Constraints and Assumptions:

- The majority of technical analysis will be provided through in-kind contributions of staff from agencies with appropriate expertise, particularly those on the Technical Advisory Committee.
- Analysis will be based on readily available information and data, not additional survey work.

- c. Data and information can be acquired promptly, to ensure the tight schedule can be met.

6. Milestones/Deliverables:

Milestones:

- 7/8/2010 Initial Technical Advisory Committee Organizational Meeting
- 9/30/2010 Charter Review by TAC
- 10/6/2010 Comments on Charter back to CalEPA
- 10/14/2010 Adoption of Charter
- 12/13/2010 Provide report to Border Relations Council
- 3/30/2011 Review first draft of Strategic Plan
- 6/1/2011 Complete Strategic Plan (prior to March, 1 2012)
- TBD Deliver to Border Relations Council

Deliverables:

Steering Committee Deliverables

- Meeting agendas
- General guidance
- Meeting coordination
- Approve expenditures
- Approve workgroup work plans, metrics and deliverables

Technical Advisory Committee Deliverables

- Input into process and findings
- In-kind staff contributions
- Advise on who to include on workgroups
- Advise on who should be kept informed
- Draft Strategic Plan
- Final Strategic Plan

Administrative Deliverables (CalEPA)

- Email Updates
- Email Meeting Notices
- Public meetings
- Notify media
- Presentations to Boards
- Meeting notes
- Manage mailing lists
 - Executive Committee

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Workgroups
- Keep Informed
- Other Interested parties/public
- Media

Impairments and Remediation Workgroup Deliverables

- List of impairments
- List of public health concerns
- Action matrix to address impairments and health concerns
- Maps of impairments, health concerns and actions as appropriate
- Gaps in knowledge to be addressed
- Cost of actions and gaps
- Prioritize actions and gaps
- Provide and follow an approved work plan, metrics and deliverables

Funding and Background Deliverables

- History of New River
- Laws and regulations governing the New River
- Compile historic and current reports
- Compile historic and current maps
- Identify funding sources
- Identify changes in laws and regulations needed
- Provide and follow an approved work plan, metrics and deliverables

New River Visioning Workgroup Deliverables

- Land use and ownership maps
- Review general plans, previous thinking
- Compile and summarize previous visions for New River
- Review GIS Maps
- Brainstorm options for use
- Map the options for how the river area can be used
- Share maps publicly
- Provide and follow an approved work plan, metrics and deliverables

7. Resource Requirements:

- \$370,000 State Water Resources Control Board grant
- \$800,000 Proposition 84 Bond funds
- \$3,200,000 Federal Transportation Equity Act)

8. Responsibility / Assignments:

- Technical Advisory Committee
 - Ricardo Martinez, Chair
- Steering Committee
 - Ricardo Martinez, Chair
- Impairments and Remediation Workgroup
 - Jose Angel, Chair
 - Ed DeMesa, Vice Chair
- New River Visioning Workgroup Co-Chairs
 - Miguel Figueroa, Chair
 - Frank Gonzalez, Vice Chair
- Funding and Background Workgroup Co-Chairs
 - Ricardo Martinez, Chair, (designee Dan Garza)
 - Andy Horne, Vice Chair

8. Team Charter Approval:

_____ Date: _____
Calexico Community Representative, Ema Rosa Silva

_____ Date: _____
Calexico New River Committee, Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director

_____ Date: _____
California Department of Fish and Game, Anna Milloy, Environmental Scientist

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California Department of Public Health, Marilyn Underwood

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California Environmental Protection Agency, Ricardo Martinez, Deputy Secretary for Border Affairs

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City of Calexico, Luis Estrada, Utility Services Director

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Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, Jose L. Angel, Assistant Executive Officer

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Comite Civico del Valle, Inc., Luis Olmedo, Executive Director

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County of Imperial, Ralph Cordova Jr., County Executive Officer

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Imperial County Farm Bureau, Linsey Dale, Executive Director

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Imperial Irrigation District, Brian Brady, General Manager

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International Boundary and Water Commission, El Paso, Lisa Santana

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Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez, Erika Contreras, Capitol Director

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Eduardo Demesa, Chief, Plan Formulation Branch

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U.S. General Services Administration, Jonathan Ballard, Portfolio Manager